



Government of **Western Australia**  
Department of **Commerce**

## **Media Statement**

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**Consumer Protection** 219 St Georges Terrace Perth Western Australia 6000

Tel: (08) 9282 0961 Fax: (08) 9282 0857

Email: [cpmedia@commerce.wa.gov.au](mailto:cpmedia@commerce.wa.gov.au) [www.commerce.wa.gov.au](http://www.commerce.wa.gov.au)

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22 February 2009

### **Shops get green light for Anzac public holiday**

Concerns that Perth's retailers would be forced to close for three straight days over the Anzac Day long weekend have been allayed following today's announcement by Consumer Protection that general retail shops can apply for special permits to allow them to trade on the Monday public holiday, 27 April, 2009.

A trading anomaly exists this year because Anzac Day falls on a Saturday and, unlike most other states and territories, Monday the 27<sup>th</sup> is a public holiday in WA.

Consumer Protection has been advised that industry bodies representing general retail shops can apply for permits to open on the Monday public holiday, under provisions of the *Retail Trading Hours Act*.

General retail shops include major department stores, chain stores and large supermarkets.

Ministerial orders to allow general retail shops to open in Rockingham, Two Rocks and the Perth and Fremantle tourism precincts, are currently being considered. These retailers will not require a separate permit.

Commissioner Anne Driscoll said the move to allow these outlets to trade was a common sense way to deal with an unusual set of circumstances.

"We have worked collaboratively with the retail industry on a practical solution that will provide a win-win situation for retailers and consumers," Ms Driscoll said.

Only WA and the ACT will get to enjoy an additional day off this year, but the rest of the country will fall into line from 2010 when a national agreement will harmonise public holidays.

Consumer Protection is currently receiving applications for permits from representative industry bodies, such as the Retail Traders Association. Other industry bodies wishing to apply for a permit can write to the Department at [consumer@commerce.wa.gov.au](mailto:consumer@commerce.wa.gov.au) or to Locked Bag 14, Cloisters Square 6850. General retail shops that are not represented by an industry body are also welcome to apply.



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Media Contact:  
Michael Ferrante  
☎ 9282 0679  
📞 0423 846 397

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